

12 May 1975

Approved For Release 2006/01/17 : CIA-RDP80B01495R0001-0
OFFICE OF THE DDI
NOTE TO THE DIRECTOR

0024-0

Executive Registry

75-6317

FROM: Ed Proctor

RE : NID to Congressional Committees

Attached is a memorandum from Bob [redacted] which presents several options for terminating the dissemination of the NID to Congress.

I recommend that Cary and [redacted] approach the staff chiefs of each of the five Committees that now receive the NID and tell them in general terms why we are terminating the arrangement. They could be offered the opportunity of receiving regular oral briefings on important subjects. In effect I am recommending that you approve a combination of options 2 (d), 3 (a), and 4 (b) as presented in [redacted] memo. Cary concurs in this recommendation.

Approved _____

Other combination of options _____

P.S. There is no way to tell how this approach will go. Although only a few of the members actually read the NID and none regularly, they do know it is available to them. The members themselves will not miss it, but the staff will.



REN 20 May
C. W. Hasse 3/11/75

ACTION

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May 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : How to Turn Off the NID

1. Quite frankly, I do not believe we are going to encounter any great opposition when we seek to stop delivery of the Daily to the Hill. Very few Senators or Representatives read it regularly, although several committee staffs do use it as the occasional basis for briefing members. Senior committee staff, in fact, constitute the primary readership and even for them the Daily constitutes something of a mixed blessing because of the safe-keeping problems they have with it.

2. Options:

(a) Discontinue the Daily: This is a draconian option akin to throwing the baby out with the bath water. To change format all together, so that we would have an excuse not to deliver a new publication to five subscribers, would require a great deal of restructuring in the OCI staff and, as most customers are satisfied, seems to me the most ridiculous extreme to which we could go.

(b) Presidential Option: The President probably would say "yes" if Dave or I told him informally that we were delivering the Daily to a few key committees and asked his blessing. The President would probably say "no" if Kissinger or Scowcroft raised the subject with him. If we desire to continue and wish to exercise the Presidential "yes" option, then we should be prepared for the fire and brimstone which will follow and be sure in our own minds that the profit is worth the investment. Personally, I do not think it is. If we wish to use the Presidential "no" option, it would afford us an excuse for stopping delivery to the committees.

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(c) Recess Stop: The House and Senate will adjourn for the Memorial Day recess on Thursday, May 22, Normally we stop deliveries during recess. In exercising this option we simply would not start delivery again when Congress comes back on Monday, June 2. One or two committees probably would never telephone us to restart; others would, which means they would have to have some explanation.

(d) The Truth: To me this seems far and away the most realistic approach to our problem. We simply would tell the committees that there has been an unfortunate incident in which an unidentified member of Congress used information from the Daily in a manner which caused us problems with other elements in the Executive Branch. The advantage in this approach is that, without putting the finger on any individual or committee, we lay the situation gently at the congressional doorstep with a minimum of embarrassment to everybody. Furthermore, if we try any of the other stratagems, the truth is quite likely to get back to the Hill and we will be in a stew of our own making.

3. Techniques:

There are basically two ways to go about belling this cat:

(a) George Cary and I can carry the message to the staff chiefs. After all, we made the arrangements in the first place.

(b) The second technique would be to have the Director contact the respective committee chairmen.

Personally, I think George and I should do the job, particularly [redacted] [redacted]. We can afford to be tarred and feathered; the Director cannot. The single advantage to having the Director call the chairmen is that it would be turned off from on high, but I am not persuaded that it needs the Olympian touch--and the Director's involvement--in what essentially is a fairly simple matter.

4. Alternatives:

It might be useful in taking away the NID to offer a substitute which would be suitably low-key and certainly not carry the hallmark of national intelligence. There are two ways we can approach this:

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(a) We could offer to provide the committees with written bi-weekly "highlights." These would be brief news and analytical summaries of current events edited down to a quickly digestible form with a careful eye as to what is said about ongoing policy matters. I believe [] and I could put this together using material from the Bulletin. It could be reviewed much as the PDB is now. This has a possible disadvantage in that it is still a written communication from CIA, even though it would be a very informal one.

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(b) The other possibility is to go back to our standing offer to orally brief committees, sub-committees, staffs or anyone else who has a requirement for up-to-date intelligence. This could be offered on a weekly basis or as events dictate. I doubt that committees or their staffs will want to get a set routine, but we certainly can be available on call as we are now.

(c) *OCI's Weekly Review?*

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